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COUNTRY East Germany

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SUBJECT Construction of a New Plant at Ludwigsfelde

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SOURCE

1. Construction work on the new plant in Ludwigsfelde is still in progress. The plant is located on the grounds of the former Daimler-Benz works. It is not known exactly what the plant is to produce. In the summer of 1952 rumor had it that the factory was to fabricate tanks; the latest rumor is that aircraft turbines are to be constructed at the plant. The latter conjecture may be true, since engineers from the Industriewerk Rossau near Dessau who were formerly with Junkers have allegedly been contracted to work in Ludwigsfelde.
2. Work on the plant was supposed to have been completed by 21 December 1952, Stalin's birthday, but it is doubtful that this deadline could have been met. Bad weather slowed down construction a great deal.
3. Though money seems to have been no object where construction of the plant was concerned, government circles have sharply criticised "bad planning" at the plant. The plant's heating system could be put into operation only partially, since work on digging ditches for the heating pipe lines began only on about 10 December.
4. Because of flaws in the fastening iron (Moniereisen), the roof of hall 12 caved in; five workers were injured. An unusual amount of nonferrous metals are stored at the plant; the metal allegedly comes from West Germany.
5. In early December 1952, there were about 4,000 workers employed at the Ludwigsfelde plant. Of these, about ninety percent were from construction firms working on the plant.
6. The following are some of the leading personnel at the plant:
 - (fnu) Repsteck - director of construction; formerly a leader in the Central Committee of the SED in Thuringia and allegedly instigator of the large show trials of industrialists.
 - (fnu) Vetter - Repsteck's personal referent
 - (fnu) Drose - deputy director and technical director; once named a "Hero of Labor"

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- (fnu) Helmuth Bach - business manager; born on 26 July 1905; a Dipl. Kaufmann (received a commercial diploma); an intelligent and fanatic Communist who went to school in Moscow.
- (fnu) Stroh - plant manager; allegedly from the Central Committee of the SED; belongs to the VVN (Association of People Persecuted by the Nazis); true to the SED line.

7. There are some informers and SSD men in the factory. The Security force is small at present. When the plant begins production there are to be a Volkspolizei detail of 120 men and a group of 50 SSD men at the plant. The following are personnel allegedly with the SSD:

- (fnu) Hinz - leader of the SSD at the plant; a Sudeten German from Marienbad; about 50 years old; held the same position formerly at Stahl-und Walzwerk Brandenburg.
- (fnu) Kaiser - allegedly belongs to Hinz's staff; is officially in charge of transportation (Fahrdienstleiter); formerly in the Land government at Potsdam; allegedly has special contact with Repsteck.
- (fnu) Seidler - officially the cultural director of the plant; about 35 years old; formerly an official member of SSD in Potsdam.

8. The following firms are engaged in the construction of the plant:

Bau-Union Bitterfeld
 Bau-Union Potsdam
 Bau-Union Stassfurt
 RFT Oberschoensweide
 Parkettlegerei Nickel, Potsdam
 unidentified firm from Magdeburg, function of which is unknown

9. Concurrent with the construction of the plant, which allegedly will consist of 12 halls, work is in progress on the construction of 850 dwellings near the Ludwigsfelde railroad for station workers at the plant.

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